

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /094 W
-----074569 101716Z /46

R 100945Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7171
INFO AMEMBASSY MBANE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, SHUM, RH, MZ, WZ
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: REPORTS OF ZANU ESCAPEES

REF: (A) PRETORIA 3780 (B) PRETORIA 3822 (C) MBABANE 2307

1. AS OF EVENING JULY 7, TOP ZANU OFFICIALS CONTINUED TO DENY THAT ZANU MEMBERS LISTED REFTEL A HAD ESCAPED OR OTHERWISE LEFT FOR SWAZILAND. AMBASSADOR AND DCM MET WITH ZANU SECGEN TEKERE AND DEPSEC FINANCE D MUTASA LATE 7 JULY ON OTHER MATTER AND ASKED ABOUT REPORTS FROM PRETORIA AND SALISBURY CARRIED IN RAND DAILY MAIL OF JULY 5. TEKERE SAID THAT REPORTS ABOUT THE ZANU DEFECTS AND THE PRESENCE OF 15 ZANU MEMBERS IN SWAZILAND WAS QUOTE UTTER RUBBISH UNQUOTE. AS EVIDENCE OF UNRELIABILITY OF NEWSPAPER REPORTS, TEKERE SAID THAT CHARLES DAURAMANZI WAS IN ZANU'S MAPUTO OFFICE A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO. HE DID ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ZANU MEMBER GIBSON SITHOLE WHO HE DESCRIBED AS MENTALLY DISTURBED, IS IN SWAZILAND.

2. WE KNOW THAT ZANU ACTING SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY
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EDDISON ZVOBGO WHO IS ACTING IN GUMBO'S "ABSENCE" HAS ALSO REPEATED DENIED TO THE PRESS THAT ANY GROUP OF ZANU MEMBERS HAS DEFECTED WHILE ZVOBGO'S REPUTATION FOR VERACITY IS NOT UNASSAIALABLE WE FIND IT STRANGE THAT ZANU SHOULD PUT ITS CREDIBILITY ON THE LINE OVER SUCH A IMPORTANT MATTER IF THE ESCAPE ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE IF REFTEL C IS ACCURATE, ZANU HAD SUFFERED A CONSIDERABLE SETBACK BOTH ON THE POLITICAL FRONT AND ON THE CREDIBILITY OF

ITS INFORMATION.

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF THE REPORTED ESCAPE IN THE MOZAMBIQUE MEDIA. THE LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS IS OF OPINION THAT IF A LARGE ZANU PARTY IS IN SWAZILAND THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER FOR THEIR DEPARTURE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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